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News Release

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Cannon Falls woman sentenced to nearly four years for mail fraud, money laundering

A 52-year-old Cannon Falls woman was sentenced yesterday in St. Paul to 46 months in federal prison for executing a scheme to defraud her former employer out of more than \$700,000.

United States District Court Judge Paul Magnuson also sentenced Susan Ann Von to serve three years of supervised release and pay restitution.

Von pleaded guilty in May, 2007, to one count of mail fraud, one count of money laundering and two counts of tax evasion.

According to the plea agreement, Von was employed as the finance manager for Sustane, a division of Natural Fertilizer of America, Inc., in Cannon Falls from Aug. 1, 2000 through May 23, 2006. Von had access to and the authority to sign checks drawn on the company's bank account.

During her employment, Von admitted, she fraudulently wrote checks from Sustane's bank account to pay for personal credit card charges. Von also fraudulently entered transactions in the company's records to make it appear that checks had been issued for a legitimate business purpose. In total, Von stole approximately \$739,834.78 from Sustane.

Von also admitted committing income tax evasion from 2000 through 2005 by filing federal income tax returns which did not report any of the income she unlawfully obtained from Sustane. According to the plea agreement, Von owes the Internal Revenue Service \$208,240.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert M. Lewis.

